

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DUSSEL 00129 241327Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08
FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-06 TRSE-00 LAB-04
SIL-01 OMB-01 PA-02 PRS-01 L-03 USIA-15 /070 W
-----118180 242322Z /70

R 241230Z JAN 78
FM AMCONSUL DUSSELDORF
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3400
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMCONSUL BREMEN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL FRANKFURT
AMCONSUL HAMBURG
AMCONSUL MUNICH
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
USAREUR HEIDELBERG
USAFE RAMSTEIN
USCINCEUR STUTTGART
USMISSION USBERLIN

UNCLAS DUSSELDORF 0129

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, GW
SUBJECT: STEEL WAGES COLLECTIVE BARGAINING STALLED

REF: 77 DUESSELDORF 1816

1. NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT A NEW WAGE CONTRACT FOR 210,000
EMPLOYEES OF THE NORTH-WEST GERMAN STEEL INDUSTRY
BROKE DOWN ON JANUARY 19, 1978, WHEN THE METAL WORKERS
UNION REJECTED AS INADEQUATE AN EMPLOYERS' PROPOSAL
TO EXTEND THE OLD CONTRACT FROM OCT 31, 1977 TO APRIL
30, 1978. THE EMPLOYERS HAD OFFERED AN ACROSS THE
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BOARD PAY BOOST OF 3.5 PERCENT EFFECTIVE MAY 1, 1978.
UNION AND EMPLOYERS DID AGREE ON THE MAINTENANCE OF
INCOME FOR INDIVIDUAL WORKERS IN CASES OF TRANSFER TO
LOWER PAID JOBS, HOWEVER SUBJECT TO AGREEMENT ON A WAGE
CONTRACT. A NEW DATE FOR THE RESUMPTION OF BARGAINING
HAS NOT BEEN SET.

2. AS REASONS FOR THEIR DEMAND TO PROLONG THE OLD CONTRACT FOR SIX MONTH THE EMPLOYERS NOTED THAT IN THE INDUSTRY THERE HAD BEEN NEITHER PRODUCTIVITY INCREASES NOR PROFITS.

3. COMMENTS: CALCULATED ON A TWELVE MONTH BASIS, THE NORMAL DURATION OF A WAGE CONTRACT, THE EMPLOYERS' OFFER WOULD NOT OFFSET THE CURRENT INFLATION RATE OF 3.5 TO 4 PERCENT. ORIGINALLY THE UNION HAD DEMANDED A SEVEN PERCENT INCREASE BUT LOCAL UNION FUNCTIONARIES PRIVATELY DECLARED THEY WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH A 5 PERCENT INCREASE.DUX

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition Event:
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